

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRAS 00255 160237Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 L-03 EB-08 TRSE-00 FRB-01
DODE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 /040 W
-----033690 160301Z /70

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FM AMCONSUL MADRAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4448

UNCLAS MADRAS 0255

ATTN: NEA/RA

FROM CHARLES W. MCCASKILL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:-

SUBJECT: SENATE INQUIRY RE BELL HELICOPTER PAYMENTS IN IRAN

REF.: STATE 036615

1. I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE POLITICAL SECTION IN THE EMBASSY IN TEHRAN FROM EARLY JULY 1968, TO MID-JULY, 1972 WHEN I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN BOMBAY. IN TEHRAN I HAD PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING IRANIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ALSO SERVED AS CONSULAR COORDINATOR, SUPERVISING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONSTITUENT POSTVS IN IRAN. IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF MY DUTIES, I WOULD NOT HAVE COME IN CONTACT WITH PERSONS FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBJECT OF THE COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS. FOR ONE VERY BRIEF PERIOD IN LATE 1968 OR EARLY 1969, I FILLED IN FOR THE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS, BUT I CAN RECALL NO INSTANCE THEN OR AT ANY OTHER TIME DURING MY SERVICE IN IRAN WHEN I DISCUSSED OR HEARD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF GENRAL KHATAMI'S INTEREST IN STP OR AIR TAXI. MY REPLIES TO ALL THE QUESTIONS ARE ACCORDINGLY NEGATIVE.

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PAGE 02 MADRAS 00255 160237Z

2. MY REPLIES TO THE QUESTIOVNS, FOLLOWING THE NUMBERING IN PARA 3 REFTTEL, FOLLOW:

1. I DO NOT RECALL KNOWING OR EVER HAVING HEARD THAT GENERAL MOHAMMED KHATAMI, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE IMPERIAL IRANIAN AIR FORCE, HAD AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST OF ANY NATURE IN STP (SKERKAT SHAHAMI TAYAR PARS) OR AIR TAXI,IRANIAN

COMPANIES, BETWEEN 1960 AND 1975.

2. ANSWERED IN QUESTION NO.1.

3. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER GENERAL KHATAMI'S INTERESTS IN
STP AND AIR TAXI WERE COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN TEHRAN. AS INDICATED
ABOVE, I DO NOT RECALL EVER HAVING HEARD OF THIS SUBJECT IN
TEHRAN.

4. I CAN NOT RECALL EVER HAVING DISCUSSED THIS MATTER
WITH ANYBODY IN IRAN OR HAVING SPOKEN TO OR WITH ANYBODY ABOUT IT.

5. ANSWERED IN QUESTION NO.4.

6. ANSWERED IN QUESTION NO.4.

7. NO

8. NO

9. NO

10. ANSWERED IN QUESTION NO.9.

11. NO

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PAGE 03 MADRAS 00255 160237Z

12. NO

3. A SIGNED WRITTEN RESPONSE WILL FOLLOW BY POUCH AS
REQUESTED.
MCCASKILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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